

The Runaway

by

Denisho Howse

303-750-1958
denisho2023@gmail.com

EXT. LONELY HIGHWAY - DAY

A lonely figure walks along the shoulder of a dusty , deserted highway road. The sun is beating down on the pavement. We draw in closer on our figure, its a TEEN AGE GIRL. She looks very hot and tired. She sticks out her thumb, listlessly , as she finally sees a lone car coming down the road. She is listening to music on a I Pod , She is bopping to the music.

CUT TO:

AUDIO ONLY - MUSIC PLAYING IN HER EAR, UPBEAT POP SONG DIGITAL RADIO STATION, SUDDENLY A NEWS ALERT CUTS THE SONG. SHE TURNS THE MUSIC DOWN BEFORE LISTENING TO THE ALERT.

EXT. LONELY HIGHWAY - SHOULDER -DAY

The lone car slows down, it's a nondescript sedan. The Teen age girl hurries to the car before it's even slows down. The driver a MIDDLE AGED MAN rolls down the window on the passenger side.

MIDDLE AGED MAN

You need a ride?

The teen aged girl , puts her hands on her hips and looks at him, in a sassy way.

MIDDLE AGED MAN (CONT'D)

What are you doing out here? Are you O.K?

The girl gives a crooked smile and nods, she hops in the car. The middle aged man looks mildly taken back at her boldness.

INT. CAR - DAY

MIDDLE AGED MAN

Where you headed?

The Teen age girl takes out her ear buds, and looks at the middle aged man defiantly.

TEEN AGED GIRL

Not home, that's for sure.

The middle aged man looks at her. She is dressed like she is going to the mall, but she is very hot and sweaty from hours of walking in the middle of no where.

MIDDLE AGED MAN

OK, I can take you as far as the Bus stop, off US-67. Is that OK?

TEEN AGED GIRL

Yeah, sure.

The Teen aged girl checks out the interior of the car.

TEEN AGED GIRL (CONT'D)

It sure smells nice in here.

MIDDLE AGED MAN

Thank you, I just cleaned out the inside.

The girl smiles. The Middle aged man puts the car in gear, and drives off.

MIDDLE AGED MAN (CONT'D)

I really don't care how the car looks on the outside, but it's important to me that the inside is very clean.

The young girl smirks at him , she looks out the window as they drive off.

TEEN AGED GIRL

My name is Amy.

MIDDLE AGED MAN

How do you do, my name is Bill.

BILL extends his hand to AMY as he kicks the car into the next gear and down the lonely highway.

AMY

So, do you always pick up hitchhikers? (beat)

Bill keeps his eyes on the road, with a dead pan look in his eyes.

BILL

No, just pretty ones, like you.

Amy looks at Bill, intently, then she rolls her eyes and looks back out the passenger window.

BILL (CONT'D)

Oh no, it's not like that. I have a family, a wife and two kids.

AMY

Oh, that's cool, for a minute I thought you where a sicko. I was about to say, let me out right here.

(nervous laughter)

So what brings you out this way, I haven't seen a car for a while.

BILL

I'm a traveling salesman. I always find myself

Amy gets comfortable and leans back in the passenger seat.

AMY

You seem like a nice man. (beat)

BILL

Thank you.

AMY

Do you have any pictures of your family? I mean a old guy like you must carry around a wallet with real pictures and shit. Right?

BILL

I have a "I phone", thank you. Haven't carried pictures in my wallet for years.

Bill pulls out a small smart phone and shows it to her.

BILL (CONT'D)

I also like to take pictures of the places I've been and show them to my kids.

The man smiles , and continues to drive down the road. Amy scrolls through the photos, she see's images of Bill and his family, everyone in the pictures looks happy and content. She hands Bill his phone back. She sits back , and seems more relaxed.

AMY

You can't be to careful now a days.
(beat)

BILL

I agree.

AMY

I know you are going to give me the speech about , hitch hiking and running away. Right?

Bill shakes his head and laughs.

BILL

The Highways and byways can be dangerous. But it looks like you know what you are doing.

AMY

Yeah whatever, I'm grown dude.

Bill laughs. Amy laughs. They drive on down the highway.

INT. CAR - DUSK - LATER

Amy is fast a sleep, Bill is still driving, he looks at her with a strange look, then nudges her awake.

BILL

Are you hungry? I going to stop at
this gas station.

Amy stirs awake, she nods her head still half a sleep. Bill pulls into a lonely convenience store. The only business for miles around. Bill parks his car at the far end of a almost empty parking lot. He looks at Amy who has finally stirred awake. Amy looks around and then nods her head.

AMY

It's cool , I kinda don't want to
be seen anyway. Can you get me some
chips, and something to drink?

BILL

That's all you want?

AMY

Yeah, I don't want to put you out
your way.

Bill get out of the car.

BILL

Nonsense, it's no bother.

Bill heads for the store.

AMY

(under her breath)

I knew you where cool.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

BILL

I heard this place had great pull
pork barbecue sandwiches, I will
get you one, to go with that drink
and chips?

AMY (FROM INSIDE THE CAR)

Cool, make it a monster energy
drink, I'm to young to by them ,
that's so lame , I mean they just
energy drinks.

Bill laughs turns and walks away toward the convenience store.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

We see Bill's car back on the highway , the sun has went down and it's pitch black along the stretch of highway, no street lights.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Amy is busy eating a large sub sandwich, overflowing with beef and sauce, she has her chips at her side and drink between her legs.

BILL

So do your parents know where you are?

AMY

No, and I want to keep it that way.

BILL

You know running away is not the answer. It can't be that tough at home.

AMY

It's not, I just want to be on my own. Experience life for real.

BILL

Well I'm going as far as Denver, you really should think about going home.

AMY

Naw, I can't stand all my parents rules.

BILL

It can't be that bad. Really, I can take you to Union Station, pay for you a ticket. Where do you live?

AMY

Just drive man, or let me out.

They drive through the night in silence, Amy puts her headphones back on. A few minutes later they pass one of those large yellow highway signs that warn people that there is a prison in the area and not to stop for hitch hikers. She looks over at Bill.

AMY (CONT'D)

So do you pick up people all the time?

BILL

(smiling)

No, just the pretty one's like I said... like you.

Amy rolls her eyes and looks back out the window. She removes the headphones the music still blaring from within the ear buds.

AMY

I'm going to LA, I'm going to be a big movie star someday.

BILL

So you want to ride with me as far west as I go?

AMY

Yeah, if it's cool. I'm not every going back home.

BILL

OK, if that's the way you want it, it's fine by me.

AMY

Your so cool Bill, I will remember to give you a shout out when I'm on the red carpet some day.

Bill smiles and they continue to drive on in silence. A few minutes later Bill begins to slow down. Amy had started to drift off again.

BILL

Did you here that?

AMY

Huh, what I didn't here anything.

Bill slows the car down and pulls over on the side of the road.

INT. CAR - SIDE OF THE ROAD - NIGHT

BILL

I need to check that out, sounded like one of my tires. We may have a flat.

Amy nods half interested , and leans back down in the passenger seat, trying to settle back into a sleep position.

BILL (CONT'D)

I'm going to get my tire kit out of the car.

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - NIGHT

Bill get's out of the car and walks around to his trunk. He gets something out of the trunk, looks like a pair of large black rubber gloves. He walks back around to passenger side door. He opens it, startling Amy awake. Before she even realizes what is going on he has his hands around her neck and quickly and violently strangles her to death. After he is convinced that all the life has left her body he causally tossed her body on the side of the road, gets into his car and drives off.

INT. CAR - NEXT DAY

Bill is riding along the next day along a similar stretch of highway. He is listening to the radio.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

In other news, a third body was found along the open space highway area outside the Denver Metro area. The victim appears to be a minor and all information on the person is being withheld. Police are noticing a pattern and believe this may be the work of a serial killer, praying on young transient women.

Bill turns the radio down as he notices a lone figure walking along the highway. He slows down she throws her thumb out excited to see a car slowing down.

INT. CAR - DAY

Bill is now has a new passenger a another YOUNG TEEN AGE GIRL. She looks hot and sweaty from walking. Bill turns the news back up on the radio.

YOUNG TEEN AGE GIRL #2

I ain't trying to take over your car, but I can't stand the news can we hear some music.

BILL

Sure, what's your name are you hungry.

The teen age girl nods happily.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Wide shot of the car driving off into the distance.

FADE TO:

BLACK SCREEN

CREDITS (UP BEAT FOLK SONG ABOUT BEING A RUNAWAY)

